## JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

dated January 13, 2006

-between-

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

-and-

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405

-and-

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND WETLANDS PROGRAMS SECTION 2600 Bull Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) a permit application (P/N #2005-1N-440-P-C) has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ATTN: MR. TONY FALLAW 955 PARK STREET, SUITE 421 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201

for a permit to construct a four lane limited access highway adjacent to the

## COOPER RIVER AND SHIPYARD CREEK

located at the south end of the former Charleston Navy Base in the City of North Charleston, Charleston County (Latitude - 32.84045 N, Longitude - 79.93646 W).

In order to provide interested parties with additional information on the proposed access roadway and the South Carolina State Ports Authority marine container terminal that will be served by the roadway

NOTICE

is hereby given that an informal PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP will be held from

4:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006,

at Gethsemane Community Center, 2449 Beacon Street in North Charleston, South Carolina. The workshop will be hosted by the Corps of Engineers and will consist of displays showing the location of the proposed access roadway corridor, additional information on the studies that were conducted to select the roadway corridor, and preliminary information on the road layout.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views, written statements regarding the proposed work may be submitted at the information workshop or will be received by the

12 O'CLOCK NOON, FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2006

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N # 2005-1N-440-P-C

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from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

On March 7, 2003, the Corps issued a Public Notice (PN # 2003-1T-016) advertising the proposed South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) marine container terminal at the south end of the former Charleston Navy Base. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was prepared to address the potential environmental consequences of developing a marine container terminal and associated transportation infrastructure improvements was released on October 21, 2005.

The permit application for the proposed marine container terminal indicated that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) in conjunction with the State Infrastructure Bank, the South Carolina Railways Commission, and the Charleston Area Transportation Study will be planning rail and highway access to serve the SCSPA's needs on the former Charleston Navy Base. A permit application showing five potential access roadway corridors was submitted by the SCDOT on August 11, 2005.

In conjunction with the preparation of the Draft EIS for the proposed marine container terminal, an Access Roadway Feasibility Study is being prepared to evaluate the potential access roadway corridors. The preliminary results of this study show that Alternative 1C would provide both safe and efficient access from the proposed port terminal to Interstate 26. This study also shows that the construction of the proposed access roadway would likely require that two existing interchanges, Meeting Street Road (Exit 217) and Spruill Avenue (Exit 218), which provide local access to Interstate 26, be closed.

The attached permit drawings show the location of a proposed access road that provides direct access from the proposed port terminal to Interstate 26. In order to replace the local access that would be interrupted by closing Exits 217 and 218, a local access roadway corridor that connects to Hackemann Street would be constructed. All comments that are received in response to this Public Notice or the Draft EIS will be considered in the evaluation of both the proposed roadway project and the Draft EIS for the proposed marine container terminal.

The proposed project consists of the development of a four lane limited access highway, a local access road, and a new access road to Cooper River Marina. The development of the proposed port terminal would result in dredge and fill activities within waters of the U.S., which include impacts to 0.21 acres of open water and 4.77 acres of tidal marsh. The project purpose is to develop an access roadway that connects the proposed marine container terminal to Interstate 26.

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received or waived. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project will have no effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 4.98 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has determined that additional information is required on the presence or absence of historic properties included, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. The impacts of the proposed activity on archaeological, scientific, prehistoric, cultural, or historic properties or items will be further evaluated based on the findings of the EIS, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. The benefits that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on wetlands, navigation, general environmental concerns (such as endangered species), historic properties, water quality, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments will be considered in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact me at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.

Nathaniel Ball Project Manager Regulatory Division

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers























